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INAUGURAL PROCEEDINGS,

AT THE

# Dedication of the New Capitol

OF

MICHIGAN,

AT THE

CITY OF LANSING.

On the First day of January, 1879.



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COMPILED PURSUANT TO A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE  
LEGISLATURE BY

ALLEN L. BOURS,

Secretary of the Board of State Building Commissioners.

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LANSING:

W. S. GEORGE & CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS.  
1879.

## Concurrent Resolution.



*Resolved* (The House concurring), That the Secretary of the Board of State Building Commissioners be requested to compile and publish, without delay, 3,000 copies of the inaugural proceedings at the Capitol on the first day of January, 1879, for the use of the two Houses.

Adopted January 8th, 1879.

## Invitations to Ex-Governors.



All the surviving ex-Governors were invited to be present and participate in the inaugural ceremonies; and all responded affirmatively, and were present, with the exception of ex-Governor McClelland, from whom was received the following:

“DETROIT, Dec. 26, 1878.

“HON. CHARLES M. CROSWELL, *Governor*:

“MY DEAR SIR:—Few things would give me more real pleasure than to be present at the opening of the new Capitol, but my physical inability, which still continues, forbids my accepting your kind invitation.

“Yours respectfully,

“R. McCLELLAND.”

## Programme of Inaugural Exercises.

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At a meeting of the Governor, and Boards of State Auditors, and Building Commissioners, held at the Capitol on the evening of Monday, December 23d, 1878, the following programme of exercises was adopted, and the committees below named appointed to arrange for carrying the same into effect.

1

Music by the Band.

2

Prayer by Rt. Rev. GEORGE D. GILLESPIE.

3

The assemblage will be called to order by His Excellency,  
CHARLES M. CROSWELL, Governor.

4

The Oath of Office will be administered to the Governor and  
Lieutenant Governor by the Chief Justice of  
the Supreme Court.

5

Address by Ex-Governor ALPHEUS FELCH.

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6

Address by Ex-Governor WILLIAM L. GREENLY.

7

Address by Ex-Governor AUSTIN BLAIR.

8

Address by Ex-Governor HENRY P. BALDWIN.

9

Address by Ex-Governor JOHN J. BAGLEY.

10

Reading of the report of the State Building Commissioners,  
and presentation of the Capitol by  
Hon. E. O. GROSVENOR, Vice-President of the Board.

11

Acceptance of the New Capitol by Gov. CHARLES M. CROSWELL.

12

Benediction by REV. T. P. PRUDDEN.

The exercises will commence in Representative Hall at 9½  
o'clock A. M.

The Hall will be opened at 9 o'clock.

The floor of the House will be reserved for members of the  
Legislature, each of whom will receive a card of admission  
for himself and lady; and for present and past Governors, and

State Officers, the Judiciary, Military Officers, Members of State Boards, principal officer of each State Institution, and resident clergy, who will assemble in the Senate Chamber, and proceed from thence to Representative Hall.

In the evening the Capitol will be illuminated, and a reception given by the Governor in his rooms from 8 to 10 o'clock.

No refreshments will be served.

No special invitations will be issued, but every citizen of the State will be welcomed.

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

HON. RALPH ELY,	HON. E. O. GROSVENOR,
HON. E. G. D. HOLDEN,	HON. JAMES SHEARER,
HON. W. B. MCCREERY,	HON. ALEX. CHAPOTON,
HON. B. F. PARTRIDGE.	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

HUBERT R. PRATT,	ALLEN L. BOURS,
CHARLES H. HODSKIN,	WILLIAM CROSBY,
LELAND H. BRIGGS.	

## Inaugural Exercises.

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The members of the Legislature of 1879 having taken their seats in the Representative Hall, accompanied by their wives and friends, the Governor and Ex-Governors of the State, past and present State officers, the Judiciary, and others included in the resolution of the committee, entered the Hall in procession and occupied the seats which had been provided for them, when at half past nine o'clock A. M. the exercises commenced with Music by the Knights Templar Band of Lansing;

PRAYER BY RT. REV. GEORGE D. GILLESPIE.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who livest for ever and ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and Thy kingdom from generation to generation; we, Thy people, whom Thou hast formed for Thyself, to show forth thy praise, adore Thee that Thy visitation doth preserve our spirits. As we recall the days that are passed of another year, we do most heartily acknowledge that goodness and mercy have followed us as in all the days of our life, that the God of our life has been the God of our health.

Gathered as citizens of this commonwealth, in the pride of our State name and honor, in the comfort of the peace and prosperity of all ways of life, in the enjoyment of active virtue



and religion, we read our lot in Thy will: Thy people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Protected by the constitution of our country, magnified and made honorable in union with our sister States; in all the record of our past national life, all our present national welfare, and all the goodly prospect for our land; we recognize that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.

As households and individuals, we acknowledge thy Fatherly goodness in the basket and the store,—around the heart, as we come in and go out.

We commend to Thy holy will the State of Michigan, its Governor and State officers. As on this day their oath of office is taken, may wisdom and strength from on high make its promise the pledge of honor to their name, and obligation to their term of office.

Look favorably on our schools and colleges,—guarding our education from vain pomp and show, party strife, selfish seeking; and directing it into the channels of mental power, political wisdom, benevolent purpose, and faith and obedience toward God.

Oh God of pity for the sinful and the sufferer, direct and further the thoughts of our hearts and the works of our hands in the punishment of vice and the provision for poverty. May we so visit the offender as to recover the man; so help the helpless as recognizing our brother, and remembering God the father of us all.

With Thy favor behold and bless Thy servant, the President of the United States, the Cabinet, all Governors, Judges, officers and legislators, that all may discharge their respective

duties to the integrity of our civil institutions, the true welfare of the nation, and Thy honor and glory.

Let not party spirit take the place of patriotism; licentiousness be the abuse of liberty; superstition and unbelief the perversion of religious freedom.

Let our land be clean in Thy sight; its air not laden with the curse and blasphemy; its Lord's days not profaned; rioting and drunkenness, chambering and wantonness not found in its high places, or its low; its sanctuaries not polluted by error of creed or hypocrisy in worship.

"Except the Lord build the house, their labor is but lost that build it."

As we reverently assemble within these walls and in the chambers of our civil solemnities, we remember and repeat "the silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts;" and how men are "filled with the spirit of God, in wisdom, understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; to devise curious works, to work in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work."

Praise to Thy name! that to-day we bring forth the headstone with shoutings.

We enter this building this day, the flag of our country waving over it, the symbol and seal of our State graven upon it, to consecrate it to law,—“whose seat is the bosom of God, her voice the harmony of the universe,” to legislation and civil business, having in keeping this wide and populous territory with grand living interests and undeveloped powers and treasures.

Let the chamber of high decision be the habitation of justice and judgment; the sure and safe refuge from ignorance and error.

In the halls of legislation, let no breathing of disloyalty be heard there; no word of faction, no pleading of mere party and sect; charity and courtesy the feeling and language of debate, and the daily record the wisdom of man and the welfare of the State.

The offices of State be sacred to that integrity that holds the public treasury as the individual's property, and the public business above private interest.

"We go hence as the shadow that departeth." "God be with us as he was with our fathers." Grace, mercy and truth be to those who shall stand in our places as rulers and citizens.

God bless our State, and let this house we have builded be from generation to generation the figure of her stability and excellency.

We own all blessings and we humbly ask all mercies through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God world without end. AMEN.

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

The assemblage was then called to order by His Excellency Governor CHARLES M. CROSWELL.

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The constitutional oath of office was administered by the Hon. James V. Campbell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to the Hon. Charles M. Croswell, Governor, and the Hon. Alonzo Sessions, Lieutenant Governor.

Gov. Croswell then introduced the Hon. Alpheus Felch, of Washtenaw, as the oldest living ex-Governor and ex-State Senator.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR ALPHEUS FELCH.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, FRIENDS, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: The occasion which brings us together in this hall is one of no ordinary interest. It is the period designated by our State constitution when both executive and legislative power passes into new hands. The same popular will which entrusted it to their predecessors commits it now to the keeping of agents selected by the same popular suffrage, or renews its commission to the faithful and the true. It is the result of that glorious feature of a free representative government—choice of rulers by the sovereign will of the people—change of officials, with no change of principles by which they are to be guided—no revolution, no revolution.

We have just heard the administration of the official oath, in this presence, to the chief executive officer of the State. To me this inauguration is a most impressive scene. Ever since the establishment of our government—more than forty years ago—this same oath has been administered on every occasion of the incoming of a new administration. It imposes duties neither light nor trivial. The pledge to support the constitution in its true and broadest sense, and to perform faithfully the duties of the executive office, is the solemn assumption of

the highest responsibilities, and all feel the propriety of the solemn appeal to the Most High in assuming them. And while I listen to its measured words, I turn to you, my fellow-citizens, and seem to hear from the lips of every one in this great assembly the response, I too will support the constitution of the United States and of the State of Michigan, and, in my more humble sphere, will faithfully perform my duty to the commonwealth. And even from beyond the walls of the Capitol, from the lips of our fellow-citizens throughout the State, I seem to listen to the same impressive words joining in one common pledge to our country's welfare.

But this occasion presents other most interesting features. We enter to-day this new Capitol of our State. Hitherto the government may be said to have dwelt in tents—to-day it enters its permanent temple; and as its portals are thrown open to the several departments of the government, and we congratulate ourselves on the auspicious occasion, the history of past progress comes vividly before our minds.

It was on the 3d day of November, 1835, that Stevens T. Mason, the first Governor of the State of Michigan, took the official oath under the first constitution. Although not recognized by Congress as an admitted member of the federal union until January, 1837, the State of Michigan practically dates its existence from the organization of 1835. This period of over 43 years has been marked by wonderful and almost magic changes.

The population, then less than 90,000, has constantly increased, until by an addition of some 1,400,000, it numbers more than 1,500,000 people.

The State, mindful of its duty to the unfortunate, has scat-

tered over its territory noble institutions for the alleviation of their misfortunes and their sorrows. The asylums for the insane, the deaf, the dumb, and the blind, are the outgrowth of our State organization; and the ample provision for the unfortunate poor in every county attests how well the duty of the public to the individual citizen has been performed.

The educational interests of the State have been liberally fostered and most wisely directed. No State in the union has established throughout her domain more numerous or more noble institutions of learning. Wherever settlers, whether few or many in numbers, have fixed their abode, the school-house and the teacher are their near neighbors, and the standard of instruction is nowhere higher than here. And when we turn to the institutions of higher education, we can but congratulate ourselves on the eminent character which they have attained. At the head of them all—I speak with due acknowledgment of the great merits of others also—stands that noble State institution, the University of Michigan, an institution whose growth is a marvel, whose history has no parallel, whose sons have already become a power in the land, whose eminence challenges and receives such general admiration from abroad, and whose promise of future usefulness was never so bright as to-day. The meagre fund in land conceded by the federal government for a University might easily have been squandered and lost, as has happened in many other States having the same endowment; but here, through all its perils, it has been guarded, nursed and fostered with a watchful care and zeal almost without a parallel. All honor to the early legislators who labored so constantly and so wisely to preserve and utilize this inestimable boon. All honor to the early Governors of the

State who stood so firmly by the fund, and whose recorded messages transmit to us most ample proofs of the zealous care with which they guarded the treasure, and the wisdom and success with which they labored to build up an institution as never an institution of learning was built up before. All honor to the successors of these early friends who have never ceased to foster and aid it as the child and the glory of the State.

This period of time since our State organization has wrought its changes all about us. Where then we were in the uncultivated wilderness, we stand now amid the beauties that pertain to an old and well cultivated country. The forest has receded, and fields laden with rich harvest and smiling with the thousand charms and comforts of prosperous agricultural life stretch themselves out on every side. Railroads, almost unknown in 1835, now intersect nearly every portion of the State. Rich mineral deposits have been discovered, and the mines have yielded up their stores of wealth. The forests have supplied their treasures. Machinery of every kind is everywhere busy, and all the industrial arts with every newly discovered power of nature, are at work. Is it wonderful then that everywhere, in town and country alike, the present should be so unlike the past? They who best remember the condition of things at the organization of the State, can best appreciate, in view of the present, the wonderful change that has taken place. We beheld then the beautiful peninsula such as nature had made it, little changed by the hand of man; we now behold the organized State, with its cities and towns and its noble institutions, glorying in the wealth, the population and the prosperity of a State whose foundations were laid in centuries that are past.

If these years have brought such marked changes within our

territorial limits, the changes in our outside relations are no less remarkable.

Michigan and Arkansas were admitted together to the sisterhood of the States. Twenty-four States then constituted the federal union. Twelve new States, covering an immense extent of territory, have since been organized and taken their places as members of the union.

The nation is no longer the same. Since the time referred to, broad extents of country have been added to her territorial limits. On the west, Mexico and Russia have ceded large regions of country, washed by the waves of the Pacific Ocean. Texas, with a territory wide enough to constitute kingdoms, has come under the national jurisdiction. And the almost limitless country lying between the slopes of the Nevadas on the west, and the Mississippi and the great lakes on the east, partitioned into convenient portions, presents itself now as organized States and Territories. We glory in the rapid march of national progress, and we rejoice with the knowledge that the period of the existence of our State is a memorial era in the advance of our nation, and that although her form of government is widely different from all foreign nationalities, she stands in the first rank of the powers of the earth.

No region of this vast national domain has had a more interesting history than our own Michigan. In early times it felt the power and yielded to the jurisdiction of more than one foreign sovereign. One of the most formal acts of taking possession of a great country that history records, had its scene within our borders. In 1701 the representative of Louis XIV., of France, stood in the midst of the congregated indians of the northwest, and around him were priests in the rich vest-



ments of their order, and His Majesty's soldiers, equipped and glittering in their uniforms and their arms. The consecrated cross was raised, and the loud anthem broke upon the ear. Then at its side, with great form and ceremony, a cedar post was erected with the royal arms attached, and the representative of the king, holding his sword in one hand and raising a sod of earth with the other, proclaimed with a loud voice, in the name of his master, the most high, mighty and redoubtable monarch, Louis the Fourteenth, most Christian King of France, that he took possession of all the country round about, from the great lakes to the South Sea, declaring to all the nations therein, that they were vassals of his majesty, and bound to obey his will, and prohibiting all that were not his dutiful subjects—all potentates, princes, sovereigns and republics—from entering into or infringing upon his majesty's domain.

If pomp and ceremony and bold proclamations could always secure permanent success, the banner of France would still wave over our territory. As it was, the French monarch held the country subject to his sceptre until 1763; and during that interval of time the Governor General of Canada administered its affairs. Then British sovereignty succeeded, and until 1783 the British flag floated over it, and British governors were its rulers. Then succeeded the territorial organization, under the American flag, which covered the region—first as a part of the great Northwestern Territory, then as a portion of Indiana; then the Territory of Michigan, and finally succeeded the State.

The complexity of our nation with foreign powers in regard to our territorial domain, is a curious item in our history. Within our present national limits, France, England, Spain, the Dutch, Mexico, and Russia have severally, at some time,

had jurisdiction and possession of portions of our soil, but these, by honorable national arrangements, have finally been relinquished, and our cherished form of a free and representative government has taken the place of all of them.

It was my fortune, just thirty-three years ago, in obedience to the suffrages of my fellow-citizens, to take the official oath as Governor of Michigan. As I look through the intervening years that lie between that and the present similar occasion, I seem to be carried back to the very origin of our State—almost to the very fountain head whence flow the sweet waters of our prosperity. From the adoption of the State constitution to the occasion to which I have referred, three individuals only had occupied the executive chair. I should do injustice to my feelings and be false to my sentiments of veneration if I failed to speak in this assembly the revered names of Mason, Woodbridge, and Barry.

They were the first to be honored with this high position, and they were worthy to bear the first honors. They were called to arduous duties in the infancy of the republic—organizing the State government, and to moulding and forming and establishing its new institutions, but each was competent to the task, and each successfully performed it.

No man whose memory reaches back to that period, will ever forget the youthful Mason, ardent, chivalric, accomplished, alert in the performance of every duty—a boy in years, but in judgment a man of mature wisdom. Almost worshiping the State of his adoption, he was himself the idol of his fellow-citizens. His messages and the records of his administration will show how bravely he battled against error, how firmly he stood against all wrong, how strenuously, yet in the kindest

temper, he urged the measures which he deemed most beneficial to the rising State.

And not less prominently before us rises the venerable form of Governor Woodbridge. A man mature in years, of great mental power, of the most refined culture, an able lawyer and statesman; he proved himself equal to every emergency, and bore most worthily the many honors that were conferred upon him.

And Governor Barry stands worthily in the company of these his compeers, a man of mark and merit. Laborious in the performance of official duty, zealous in his care for the public interests, studying and enforcing the strictest economy in times of public embarrassments, and always seeking the greatest good of the State: the confidence of the community in him never diminished, and their repeated calls for his return to the executive office, attest the strength of the hold which he continued to have upon the affections of the public.

Many noble men have succeeded these in the same official positions, and have both deserved and secured the approval and the gratitude of their constituency; but in the long list of names none more worthy are found than these, the earliest of our standard bearers.

But they are with us no longer. They and their worthy co-workers also, with few exceptions, have passed to the assemblage of the great majority, beyond the verge of life. We cast fresh flowers on their graves, and turn to the present and the future.

Let me congratulate you, my fellow-citizens, on the auspicious occasion of opening the new Capitol of our State. This beautiful structure is not built for the present alone, but for

the future also. Its solid foundations and its massive walls proclaim stability and permanency. It is to be the lasting abode of the three branches of our government—the executive, the legislative, and the judicial—and its portals, opened to-day, receive them within its walls. Here is the council-house where public measures must be discussed and determined. Here is the place where the wrongs of the citizen must be righted, and his rights defended and protected. It is a just demand of the great public that wise and beneficent laws should come from the legislative department; a firm and true administration of its appropriate duties from the executive; and from the judicial department that faithful, intelligent and impartial distribution of justice, which shall fall like a blessing upon the land.

May this Capitol, in the solidity of its structure and the indestructibility of its materials, prove a fitting emblem and a happy augury of the permanency of the republic. It would be far better that its proud walls should be overthrown, and its solid foundation stones be ground to powder and scattered to the winds, than that any sacrilegious hand should mar the foundation principles of our republic. Error writes its record on unstable water, but permanency is inscribed upon every great truth and every just principle.

My faith is strong in the perpetuity of our system of free government, based as it is on human rights and the welfare of the human family.

We cannot know what the future may bring forth; but for myself, as I fix my eyes upon the cloud that rests over it, I see it illuminated by the bright bow of promise, and in cheerful hope and confidence I am content to commit the treasure to the keeping of those who shall come after us.

At the conclusion of the address of Governor Felch, the band played "Hail Columbia," after which, Governor Croswell introduced the Hon. William L. Greenly, of Lenawee county, by whom the act of the Legislature, removing the Capitol of the State to Lansing, was signed.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR WILLIAM L. GREENLY.

MEN AND WOMEN OF MICHIGAN:—Having this day assembled for the purpose of celebrating in a quiet and suitable manner, the completion of our Capitol, and its delivery to our Chief Executive for the use and benefit of the people of the State of Michigan, I have thought that it would not be inappropriate for him who at that time occupied the Chair of State, and approved the bill passed by the Legislature, locating the seat of government in the township of Lansing, in the county of Ingham; also a bill supplemental thereto, providing for the location of the site upon which the permanent Capitol should afterwards be erected,—to offer a few remarks—somewhat historical—in relation to its inception and the early steps taken with a view to bring about the happy and beneficent result, at last so happily attained, and so highly enjoyed, and above all so thoroughly and truly appreciated by the people of this great State.

Section nine of Article XII. of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, adopted in the year 1835, declared that the seat of government for this State, should be at the city of Detroit, or at such other place or places as might be prescribed by law, until the year 1847, when it should be permanently located. Although many and often repeated attempts were made by the Legislature to prescribe by law some other place or places for a temporary seat of government, as authorized by the consti-

tution as before stated, yet none of them were successful, owing in a great measure, if not wholly, to a spirit of jealousy and rivalry then, as now, pervading the feelings, and influencing the action of the denizens of all the larger towns and villages of our State. It was considered a great prize, earnestly and eagerly sought, and labored for in every part of the State not so unfortunately situated as to preclude all hope. The member representing the interest of one town, blinded by his own and his constituents' selfishness, totally forgetting or ignoring the great and paramount interest of his State, was utterly unable to discover either beauty, fitness, or propriety in a rival town, and determined that his own town or village was pre-eminently entitled to its location, and invariably voted "our town or no change." For this reason it remained in the city of Detroit, until the time arrived for making a permanent location.

I have alluded to the scenes which always accompanied any effort for the temporary removal of the seat of government from the city of Detroit prior to its final location, in order that you may comprehend some of the difficulties which the friends of the bill, as it finally passed, had to meet every day and from every quarter.

The Legislature of 1847, whose imperative duty it had become, under the constitution, to make a permanent location of the seat of government, proceeded early in the session to act upon a bill introduced for that purpose, with the name of the place for such location in blank. After a long and earnest discussion, and trying day after day to fill the blank with the name of one or another of nearly every town of any note in Michigan, at last, influenced more by a desire to get rid of the whole subject and the daily jangling which accompanied it,

than by any foresight or expectation of the immense benefits ultimately, and in the near future to accrue to the State by their action, passed by a goodly majority, the following short but important bill: "That the seat of government of this State shall be in the Township of Lansing, in the county of Ingham," which, by the approval of the Governor, on the 26th day of March, 1847, became a law of the State, and on the same day another supplemental bill, making the necessary provisions for carrying said act into immediate effect was also approved.

At that time the site of this beautiful city, with all its surroundings, was almost in a perfect state of nature, unadorned by any device of man, and unimproved by any exercise of his art; devoid alike of domicile or farm, far removed from the comforts and enjoyments of life,—we had almost said even without the pale of civilization. Senators and Representatives involuntarily looked back and brought to mind all the hardships of pioneer life, and asked themselves Shall we again be compelled to undergo a like experience? For the reason that it was a new and untried step in the onward progress of Michigan, that it might necessarily be years, and perhaps generations, before the solitude would be peopled, and the uncultivated wilds could be subdued, and all the appliances of civilization would spring up around it. There were grave and serious doubts in the minds of many, if not a majority of the members of the Legislature, as to the propriety of the proposed step, but it was their solemn duty to make a permanent location somewhere, and the fact that Lansing was somewhat centrally situated, carried the bill. So great and far reaching have been the benefits which have accrued to the State, more especially to its central and northern portions, in

opening them up to improvement, and causing splendid cities, villages, and farms with all their adjuncts to take the place of a howling wilderness, that it would almost seem that the finger of Providence had guided and directed the course of that legislation, rather than the wisdom of finite and erring man.

By the supplemental act to which I have alluded, the Governor was required to appoint three commissioners, one of whom was to be denominated "acting commissioner," to proceed to the said town of Lansing, and to select a suitable and eligible site in said township, containing not less than twenty acres of land, on which to erect the Capitol and other State buildings. Said commissioners were authorized, in their discretion, to locate the same on the school section in said township. Further, it made it the duty of the acting commissioner to cause to be erected and completed by the 25th day of December next ensuing, temporary State buildings for the use of the Legislature and State officers. Upon the appointment of the commissioners, they at once entered upon the active performance of their duties. For a due and just appreciation of the good judgment and sound sterling sense of the men who so well and so ably performed their duties, you have only to look around and examine this beautiful site, upon which has been erected this massive, enduring, convenient and yet elegant structure, which your Chief Executive has this day, for and in behalf of the people of Michigan, accepted from the hands of its builders.

One would naturally suppose, on an occasion like this, we should be led to extol in bright and glowing language—in terms as vivid as an exuberant and teeming imagination can supply—the greatness of our State, the enviable position to which the activity, ingenuity and indomitable energy of her people, constantly aided and assisted by wise and judicious legislation, has



raised her. But to me it seems that this would be a work of supererogation. Does not Michigan herself do this work better than any of her sons can do it for her? Does not her great and magnificent system of education, extending from infant schools up to the highest grades of learning, free alike to the rich and the poor, to the high and to the low; a system, which has merited and received the praise of nearly every civilized State in the world, extol her? Does not her great and constantly growing works of internal improvement, interlacing most every portion of her broad domain, bringing an easily visited market for her bountiful products almost to the limits of her every farm, praise her? Does not her splendid system of eleemosynary institutions, for the care of the insane, for the deaf and dumb, for the orphan, for the poor and homeless, for the sick and dying, for her erring criminal sons, and infirm, for the unfortunate of every class, portray to you in broader, deeper, and more lasting colors the greatness and glory of our State, than the tongue of man could paint?

Are not facts stronger than fancy? How happy the thought which suggested the motto inscribed upon the coat of arms chosen for our State. If it could be said with truth at that time, in a state of nature, how proudly and truthfully now can we exhibit it to the world and say, "*Si quæris peninsulam amœnam, circumspice.*"

Governor Croswell then introduced the Hon. Austin Blair, of Jackson county, Michigan's war Governor.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR AUSTIN BLAIR.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—I regret very much on your account, even more than on my own, that I have not been able to find

time to put the remarks which I may feel called upon to make here to-day, into any order, and upon paper, as the gentlemen before me have done. And yet I did not feel as if I ought to decline altogether to appear upon this occasion, for I remember very well that it is not often that the ex-Governors get a day in the service, as we have been able to do at this time; and to get you once more fairly before us where you cannot very well get away. I have to thank his Excellency, the present Governor, for having recalled your attention to the fact that I stood in his position upon a somewhat trying occasion; although I am obliged to admit that it was not at all anticipated at the time when I was chosen. Some of us even then thought there might be trouble between the States, and an effort made at dissolution, but really we did not quite believe it. Perhaps I ought to feel a little thankful that I got into that rather prominent position, not from any particular qualification I had for it, but because my fellow citizens thought I could fill the position which was to be paid for at only \$1,000 a year, and do it quite respectably in piping times of peace.

It is true, however, that we found a very serious change in that regard directly, and I have considered it always as somewhat fortunate towards myself, whether it was to anybody else or not, that I could associate among men whom I have been very glad to remember ever since. Nothing ever filled me with more pleasure than the memory of the fact that upon the ticket where my name stood, was at the head of it the name of the martyr President, Abraham Lincoln,—a man so true and so faithful, so wholly and completely American in every respect, so devoted to his country, so great in every position in which he was ever tried, that it was an honor to anybody to have stood

near him in the great events in which he spilled his blood and gave up his life for his country. A better than he, or a nobler martyr, never lived on the face of the earth.

But I shall not to-day call your attention particularly to the past. You are all very familiar with it, and to recall it would only be renewing in the minds of those before me here, those sentiments and feelings which have become common to the whole commonwealth. What I desire to do more upon this occasion, is to call your attention a little to the present. As has been very excellently said already, "we are moving to-day into the new State Capitol"—a building somewhat larger and more imposing than that in which those of us who went before were obliged to perform the public business. I hope that it is only an evidence that the State itself has broadened out in its ideas.

If I should say anything a little sharp before I get through, I hope everybody will pardon it, because it is exceedingly well intended.

I congratulate you upon what has been accomplished; but I desire to call your attention to some other things that need to be done. There are enough to tell you, and always will be, of all the fine and beautiful things we have done; of the elegant buildings we have erected, of the magnificent school system we have established; of the benevolent institutions which cover the State—which are all exceedingly well in their way,—but the duty never departs from us to take care that these are properly administered; for if we do not, that which was intended as a blessing, and ought to be, becomes a curse. You will remember perhaps the remark of Alexander Pope about forms of government. He says:

"For forms of government let fools contest,  
That which is best administered is best."

And there is a world of truth in this. "That which is best administered is best." It is the administration after all. We are patriotic, I suppose, and design well, and we all would be glad, at least, to be wise if we could; but in looking at the past we ought to see what we need for the future. And as we all became convinced at last that there was need of a new Capitol, the people were willing to expend \$1,500,000 in building it. I congratulate them that they have done a most excellent thing. Now I ask them, after having gone so far, if they do not think they can afford—this great and magnanimous people of Michigan, organized in such a wonderful way, and accomplishing such amazing results—to give the Governors, hereafter, about half as good a salary as they pay to a common dry-goods clerk almost anywhere in Lansing?

I take it for granted that I am speaking to some of the members of the Legislature, which is about to assemble. I think the occasion fitting to call their attention to this, as well as one or two other things which I may mention before I get through. Perhaps in advance, it would be well enough to address them in the language that it is said old Governor Snyder addressed one of the early Legislatures of Pennsylvania. He said to them, "Fellow citizens, you have assembled to do some needful legislation for the benefit of the commonwealth, and to attend more particularly to your own private schemery." I want to beg that in the careful attention that may be given to the "private schemery," don't forget, altogether, the public interest to which I have alluded. Pardon me if I enlarge a little upon this. The Governor should live at the capital of the State. Every citizen should know that he can be found here; that these magnificent rooms prepared for him, will always be occupied. He needs a home here, and ought to

have a mansion, which is at least as respectable as the mansions most private citizens occupy; so that he can bring his family and live here during his term; where he can conduct himself like a civil magistrate, in a civilized way, as people do in other parts of the country. You have a right to expect when he is chosen to this great office, that he shall give his entire time, energies, and ability to it. It is very greatly for your interest that he should do so; and I submit that it is not good economy for you to chaffer with him about the pittance received, in order that he may do this. Now I have said so much upon this subject, because I think you will pardon me, having gone through this thing to some extent myself. I am a swift witness to testify that the people of Michigan have dealt hardly with their Governors since this constitution went into effect, with this very meager salary in it. I think it has some tendency to degrade the office, although I know there will always be found gentlemen who are willing to risk almost anything for the honor of this great office, and being the choice of their fellow citizens. But the citizens themselves ought to remember that they cannot afford to require this; and I really hope it is about to pass away. As I see the liberality in expenditure about me here, I grow hopeful that this will be reformed.

And now pardon me if I say there is one thing more that I want very much should be done. And that comes from me as a lawyer, for you know that the Governors come in to-day with a flourish of trumpets, and go out to-morrow into their law offices, into their banks, or to their farms; and then are forgotten except upon some notable occasion like this, when we can get a chance for ourselves, and magnify our office in the American way. Now what I desire to say, from my position as a lawyer—the executive branch I have said something about—

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is to speak of that branch which is called in this constitution the judiciary; which is common to all the States, as well as to the nation. And if I say to you that it is equally as important as any of the others, I think you will not disagree with me; and if I were to say more than that, I should say it is the one that keeps all the rest in order; that comes home nearest to the people; that represents their rights and interests more directly, more constantly, and more completely than any other, it is this branch of the government. I want here to-day to put in a plea for the trial courts of this State. I do not need to point you long to the position of our Circuit Judges. I think you have got here thirty, or something like that, of little circuits, separated, and which have no connection with each other. To these Judges upon the bench we pay such insufficient salaries as to make them almost a by-word and a mockery. I do not wish you to think that I mean to complain of these Judges. On the contrary, I am amazed at the amount of labor they perform with such restrictions. But I have to say that it is to the interest of every citizen, that the Judges who sit on the benches in the trial courts of the State, ought to be equal to every lawyer at the bar; that they ought not to be men of inferior learning or qualifications. Can you expect the services of a capable and upright Judge, unless you pay something like what his services are worth in the profession? Ought it not to be the pride of the people to foster the judiciary, and make it respectable and strong? And if they so support it, they will be able to command the ability and strength that we need. Why, fellow citizens, there is not a man in the State who does not understand perfectly well that this ought to be changed. A great many efforts have been made to change it, but there it stands in the constitution, whereby every one of these things

seems to have been put in a straight jacket. What are we to do? I look to you, gentlemen of the Legislature, to find some means to break through that straight jacket. I have great respect for constitutions and the fundamental principles which guard the rights and liberties of the people, but so far as this question is concerned, the proper salaries of the various officers of the State government, our constitution is nothing but a straight jacket, and should be torn off as soon as possible by some wise means. I am satisfied that everybody is ready for it.

Repeatedly this question in relation to the salary of Judges has been presented to the people, but I think never in such a way as to have public opinion bear fairly upon it. There has always been something else with it, or the presentation has been without proper plan. I suppose there are enough gentlemen now able to put this matter in some such form, or devise some plan by which the people will see that their interests are involved, and then I don't think there would be any great difficulty about it.

And now, fellow citizens, I will not detain you much longer, I congratulate you upon this fine building, the growth and prosperity of our State; but I want you to remember, as I said almost in the opening of my remarks, that you may have a very fine Capitol, and still have a very poor administration; just as you may have very fine school-houses, but very poor schools in them a great many times; just as you can make anything magnificent, but pretty useless or even cumbersome. We should consider carefully the propositions which come constantly before us in regard to our public affairs, and so right and change them as that they shall meet the exigencies of the present.

Now this old constitution was adopted when the State was small and poor. It was calculated for the situation in which we then were. We have outgrown it in a great many particulars, and we need to amend and improve it; and we need to do it in the way of wisdom, and not mere partisanship. Let us, if we can for the time being,—and I trust there are many men disposed to do it, rise above prejudice and party strife, and remold and remodel our affairs in such a way as to develop the great interests and power of this people more rapidly than has hitherto been done. There never will be a time when you can stop in regard to these things. Our fathers builded and they builded well, better even than they knew. As their sons have outgrown the old State House down yonder, and moved into this, so too have they outgrown a great many of the institutions under which we live, and we want to improve them. There is steady growth, and there must be legislation biennially in order to make room for what is coming, not only here but elsewhere in the country, and to improve our illustrious institutions, to make them better and more effective than they have ever been heretofore, and to enlarge upon the noble plan with which we have started.

I am very hopeful,—as my friend, Governor Felch, has said in his closing remarks,—exceedingly hopeful about our American institutions. I have never doubted for an instant our success to make this a government of freedom, not only as good as our fathers supposed, but that it shall be made better as we go forward. That while this people will make some mistakes, undoubtedly, they have strength and knowledge to correct them when they find them out. I believe we shall continue to grow, and that liberty, regulated by law, will continue to prosper not only here but throughout the whole land,



and that this country, the latest born of the republics in the world, shall at last become the oldest and best of the whole.

Governor Croswell then introduced the Hon. Henry P. Baldwin, of Wayne county, who recommended to the Legislature of 1871 the building of the new Capitol, approved the act providing for its erection, and appointed the Building Commissioners under its provisions.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR HENRY P. BALDWIN.

We are here to-day in answer to an invitation from the Governor of the State. The occasion which calls us together is one of much interest to every citizen of Michigan. Another milestone now placed on our pathway, marks the progress of the State, and it may not be amiss to recall to memory some few of the historical incidents connected with the growth and advancement of our noble commonwealth.

For nearly two centuries the territory which is now the State of Michigan, was a part of the jurisdiction of Canada, belonging to France until the victory of Wolfe at Quebec, in 1759, which led to the surrender of Detroit and other northwestern posts in 1760. Then to Great Britain until by the treaty of peace of 1783 it became a part of the territory of the United States, but it was not surrendered and did not actually become an American possession until 1796.

It was a part of the Northwestern Territory organized under the ordinance of 1787, with Cincinnati as its first seat of government, and Arthur St. Clair as its first Territorial Governor.

Michigan next became a part of the new Territory of Indiana, organized in 1802, with Vincennes as its seat of government, and General William Henry Harrison as its Governor. This

connection continued but a short time, as the Territory of Michigan was organized in 1805, with Detroit as its seat of government, and General William Hull as its first Governor. The legislative power was committed to the Governor and three Judges appointed by Congress. The Governor and Judges met for the first time in July of that year, at the Indian Council House in Detroit, and the Government of Michigan commenced its existence. The population of the Territory was about 3,000. In 1820 it had increased to 8,896; in 1830 to 31,639.

The first county organization embracing any portion of the State of Michigan was made in 1796, when Wayne county was set apart. *The county was somewhat larger than we are now accustomed to, as it embraced the whole of the subsequent Territory of Michigan and a part of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.*

The right of suffrage did not exist in the Territory until, by an act of Congress, in 1819, the people were authorized to elect a delegate to Congress. The elective franchise was still further extended, in 1823, by an act of Congress authorizing the election of a Legislative Council, to consist of nine members to be appointed by the President from eighteen persons to be chosen by the people.

In 1834 the population of the Territory had increased to 87,000, sufficient to warrant a State organization. In January, 1835, an act was passed by the Legislative Council, authorizing a convention to form a constitution. The convention met and framed a constitution, which was adopted by the people in October. State officers and a Legislature were elected at the same time. The Legislature met in November of the same year, with Stevens T. Mason as the first Governor of the State.

A contest having arisen between Ohio and Michigan as to the boundary line between the two States, the famous "Toledo war" occurred. The boundary question was eventually settled by Ohio getting Toledo, and Michigan receiving its territory in the Upper Peninsula as an equivalent.

In 1823 an edifice of brick, designed for a court-house, was erected in Detroit, and used as the Territorial and State Capitol until 1847, when, by an act of the Legislature, the seat of government was removed to Lansing.

The second State House,—the one we have just now abandoned,—a plain frame building, was erected in 1847, and occupied by the Legislature of 1848, and by every subsequent Legislature until the present. It still stands a monument to the wise economy of those days. The population of the State at the time of the removal of the seat of government to Lansing was about 340,000.

The Governor, in his message to the Legislature of 1871, called the attention of that body to the necessity for the erection of a new State Capitol. The recommendation resulted in the passage of an act providing for the erection of a new State House, and a building for the temporary use of the State offices, and for the appointment of a Board of State Building Commissioners. Appropriations were made in the same act for the temporary building, for cost of plans, and \$100,000 towards the new Capitol.

At an extra session of the Legislature, in March, 1872, additional appropriations amounting to \$1,100,000 were made, intended, with the previous appropriation to cover the whole cost of the building.

In July of 1872 a contract was made for the construction of

the whole building. And we are here to-day to unite in congratulations with His Excellency the Governor, the State officers, the Houses of the Legislature, and the Board of State Building Commissioners under whose intelligent and faithful supervision the beautiful, commodious, and substantial edifice in which we are now assembled has been successfully constructed and completed; an edifice every way fitting and worthy of being the Capitol of our growing and prosperous State for centuries to come.

Nearly eight years have passed, and a million and a half of dollars have been expended on this stately edifice, and we rejoice in being able to congratulate the people of Michigan upon the fact that this great work was honestly begun and has been honestly completed, and that every dollar of its cost has been promptly paid without contracting debt, and without being in any sense a burden to the people.

We are the citizens of a commonwealth, with a fertile territory large enough for an empire, with advantages of location and internal resources almost unequaled, with an intelligent and industrious population of one and a half millions of people; with noble institutions for educational, beneficent and reformatory purposes; goodly foundations have been laid, and to-day marks, as it were, a new epoch in the history of Michigan, by the completion and occupation of this new State House, now "to be dedicated to the enactment and administration of such equal laws as will tend to establish justice and to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity for all time."

Governor Croswell then introduced the Hon. John J. Bagley, of Wayne county, under whose administration the greater part

of the work was forwarded, and to whose wise counsels many excellent features were due.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR JOHN J. BAGLEY.

The completion of the beautiful building we this day dedicate as our State House, is indeed a source of pride to every citizen of Michigan. As we move "out of the old house into the new," we are proud that we were content with the old, simple and modest as it was, narrow and contracted as it became, until we could build a new, by self-imposed taxation, freely paid by a willing and generous people. We are proud that it is paid for—that the roof over our head and the hearthstones under our feet are not mortgaged to the future. We are proud of the example the State has given to us as individuals and communities; glad for the lesson it has taught us of fidelity, economy and prudence. We remember, too, with pride that the wise behests of our fathers, as given to us in the organic law; that universal education should be provided for, that institutions for the unfortunate should always be maintained, were first obeyed—that no expenditure for luxury, ornament or comfort has been made, until our institutions of education, charity, persuasion and punishment have first been completed. Within the lifetime of a single generation, all these things we have faithfully done. And now, rounded out as this lifetime is, by the completion of this, our State Home, our hearts swell with honest pride in our beloved State; our hopes for its future are buoyant and bright; and with heartfelt gratitude to the Ruler of nations for the blessings that have so constantly abided with us, we devoutly ask for all the coming years that "peace may be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces."

Who of us to-day is the poorer for the expenditures of the State in its institutions? rather, who of us is not richer for them? If the old proverb, "What a man gives, and what he consumes is his real wealth," be true, then Michigan is rich indeed.

The State is not only grand in its acres, but in its aims—it is not only great in its cities, but in its citizenship—it is not rich alone in its wealth, but in its wisdom. Upon these foundations we have builded the commonwealth, and upon these it shall stand forever.

In this new and beautiful home for all the departments of our State government, let us highly resolve that legislation shall be for the common good; that the people shall not be forgotten in their rights, nor made unmindful of their duties; that all men of all conditions, creeds, color or circumstances, are citizens and neighbors, and deserve equal care and thought from our law-makers. Build no barriers, create no classes, but hold in one embrace poor and rich, wise and ignorant, native and foreign born, employer and laborer. In the things that can only be done by associations or corporations, demand the same duties that are demanded of the individual; grant the same right—and no more, that we would to the individual.

Legislation enacted in this spirit and administered in this spirit will, indeed, make the dream of the poet a reality:

"When the State House is the hearth,  
Then the perfect time has come—  
The republican at home."

Our pioneer fathers, whose eyes feasted upon the virgin beauty of the State, its lakes and streams, its prairies and openings, its lovely valleys, its grand forests and generous soil, charmed with the prospect, adopted as the motto of the State,

“If thou seekest a beautiful peninsula, behold it here.” And we do behold it, not as they saw it, but beautiful and softened by the handiwork of their children, who have dotted it all over with home, and school, and church. Let us see to it that our government, in all its branches, be so just, so wise, so beneficent that we may say, If thou seekest a beautiful peninsula, not in material things alone, but in good citizenship, in pure manhood and womanhood, in love of liberty, in belief in free institutions, in care of the unfortunate, in general and liberal education, behold it here! Some one has said “the walls that see us work, and dream, and hope, are always to us the walls of a palace.” May our work for Michigan, our dreams of Michigan, our hope for Michigan be such that the walls of our State House shall indeed be always to us the walls of a palace.

Governor Croswell then introduced the Hon. E. O. Grosvenor, of Hillsdale county, Vice President of the Board of State Building Commissioners, who read the report of the Commissioners, as follows:

#### REPORT OF BUILDING COMMISSIONERS.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The Board of State Building Commissioners welcome most heartily this occasion, and with pleasure avail themselves of the opportunity it affords them to render an account of their stewardship. The members of the commission were appointed by His Excellency, Governor Henry P. Baldwin, and confirmed by the Legislature in joint convention on the 11th day of April, 1871.

On the day following they met in Lansing and took and subscribed the constitutional oath of office, and the oath required under the provisions of section 3, act number 68 of

the laws of 1871, and at once entered upon the work assigned them. At the session of the Board on May 8th, their organization was fully completed by the election of Commissioner Grosvenor as Vice President, at which time the members of the Board also filed with the Secretary of State the bonds required by the act.

The first duty required of the Board was the erection of a suitable building for the temporary use of the State offices, as the building then in use for that purpose occupied the centre of the block of ground designated as the site for the new Capitol. That building was erected and completed ready for occupancy early in November, 1871.

While the erection of the temporary offices was progressing, the Commissioners were engaged in collecting the necessary information to enable them properly to carry out the instructions of the Legislature, and on the 6th of June they issued an advertisement soliciting competitive designs for a new Capitol, and a pamphlet of instructions to architects, giving them the number and sizes of the various apartments required, the kinds and quality of materials to be used, and such other directions and information as were deemed essential; and charging them especially to avoid superfluous ornamentation, and the necessity of keeping strictly within the limit of expenditure authorized by the Legislature.

In response to this advertisement twenty designs were submitted on December 28th, 1871, by architects of various localities. After a careful examination of each, in which the Board was engaged almost constantly for nearly a month, they decided on the 24th of January, 1872, to adopt the design submitted by Elijah E. Myers (an architect then residing at Springfield, Illinois), as possessing in a greater degree than



any other design submitted, the most essential features for a suitable Capitol building for the State of Michigan.

The drawings of Mr. Myers were finely executed, combining beauty of proportion with substantial construction, and evidenced that the architect had carefully studied and adhered to the suggestions of the Commissioners, in securing compactness and solidity of design, in avoiding unnecessary ornamentation, and in properly arranging the various apartments with regard to light, ventilation, and the general convenience of the departments that were to occupy and transact business in them. As the work progressed the plans were found to be quite correct and the construction good and substantial, evidencing that the skill and ability of the architect were of a high order.

Mr. Myers was employed as architect and general superintendent, which position he retained until the close of September last, the work being at that time so nearly completed as to require his services no longer.

In the examination and selection of a design for the Capitol, all the State departments were consulted as to relative location and amount of room desired, and other requirements; and nearly all of the officers were present and took part in the final adoption.

At the extra session of the Legislature in March, 1872, the cost of the Capitol, including all expenses incident to its construction and completion, was limited to \$1,200,000, and the contract for the entire building was awarded on the 15th day of July, 1872, to Messrs. N. Osburn & Co. for \$1,144,057.20, leaving nearly \$56,000.00 to provide for extras, salaries, and other expenses. Of the six proposals submitted, that of N. Osburn & Co. was the only one within the limit of the appro-

priation, the other five ranging in amount from \$1,379,984.97 to \$1,896,000.00.

The subject of building stone occupied the attention of the Commissioners for a long time, and was fully discussed, and samples examined and tested at all their meetings until the selection was decided upon. While the Board felt a proper pride in using materials found within the State, and were desirous of carrying out the suggestions of the Legislature in this respect, they were unwilling to adopt any stone which could not command their fullest confidence, or to try any experiment in a work of such importance and magnitude. There was found no quarry within the State, sufficiently developed to insure the required quantity of stone, uniform in color, and of suitable quality for a building of such size and character. It was, therefore, decided to adopt the Amherst, Ohio, sandstone, the character of which was fully established, and its color well adapted to produce the pleasing contrast of light and shade desirable in a building of this class of architecture.

The limestone from Lamont, Illinois, was adopted for the foundation, and was furnished in massive blocks, extending the entire width of the walls. The first base course and all the outside steps and landings are of Joliet limestone of very superior quality.

All the materials employed in the construction of the building are of the best of their several kinds.

On the 2d of October, 1873, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, pursuant to the provisions of a joint resolution of the Legislature of that year.

In addition to the appropriation of \$1,200,000 for the construction of the building, the Legislature of 1875 appropriated

for steam heating and ventilation \$70,000. For changes in the construction of the roof, the steps to porticoes, and interior finish, \$30,000. For constructing the main cornice and balustrade of stone, instead of galvanized iron, as provided in contract, \$65,000. The Legislature of 1877 also appropriated \$25,000 to pay for electrician work and other needed improvements, making the aggregate of appropriations for construction, steam heating, and electrician work, \$1,390,000.

All of the work has been fully completed within the amounts appropriated.

The condition of the several appropriations for all purposes connected with the construction, steam heating, electrician work, and other improvements of the Capitol building, including that part of the furnishing of the State Library, Legislative Halls, and Supreme Court room committed to this Commission, and the improvements of the grounds, is as follows:

Amounts appropriated under Acts No. 67, of 1871, and 4 of 1872, for construction, \$1,200,000; of which has been expended \$1,199,574.06, leaving a balance of \$425.94.

Under section 1 of Act No. 9, of 1875, for steam heating and ventilation, \$70,000; of which has been expended \$68,472.68, leaving a balance of \$1,527.32.

Under section 2 of the same act, for changes in the roof, steps to porticoes, and interior finish, \$30,000; of which has been expended \$28,171.50, leaving a balance of \$1,828.50.

Under Act No. 114, of 1875, for constructing the main cornice and balustrade of stone, instead of galvanized iron, as provided in the original specifications, \$65,000, all of which has been expended, the contract for that change having been awarded for the amount appropriated.

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Under Act No. 37, of 1877, for electrician work and other improvements, \$25,000; of which has been expended \$24,537, leaving a balance of \$463; being ten per cent on the contract for the electric lighting and annunciator work, which amount will be due and paid to the contractors upon the full completion and acceptance of their contract.

Under Act No. 135, of 1877, for improvement of grounds and furnishing, \$40,000; of which has been expended \$39,743.33, leaving a balance of \$256.67.

The aggregate of balances to this day being \$4,501.43, of which it is estimated that nearly \$4,000 will remain in the State treasury after every obligation incurred by this Board shall have been paid.

The Commission has aimed to erect a Capitol worthy of the dignity of the State,—massive and elegant; void of all trivial ornamentation, and pleasing in appearance; of enduring material, substantial in construction, and perfect in workmanship; and while earnestly endeavoring to accomplish this, that we have not been unmindful of the injunction of the Legislature to make no expenditure exceeding the appropriation, is attested by the following instrument, executed by the contractors on the day of completion and acceptance of the building:

“Received of the Board of State building Commissioners of the State of Michigan, Voucher No. 73, bearing even date herewith, for the sum of one hundred and thirty-six thousand three hundred and four and 70-100 dollars, being in full settlement of all demands arising in any manner under a contract made on the 15th day of July, A. D. 1872, with said Board of State Building Commissioners for the erection and completion of a State Capitol for said State; it being

expressly agreed and understood that all demands for extra labor and materials, as well as for all changes made in the work for the entire completion of the contract are fully adjusted.

(Signed)

“N. OSBURN & CO.

LANSING, MICH., September 26th, 1878.”

No change has occurred in the composition of the board since its organization in 1871, except in its president; the law providing that the Governor shall be a member of the board, and *ex officio* its presiding officer. The work commenced under His Excellency, Governor Henry P. Baldwin, who having devoted much attention to the examination of the construction and arrangement of public buildings at home and abroad, was admirably qualified for the important position, and greatly aided the board by his counsels.

He was succeeded in 1873 by Governor John J. Bagley, who for four years was president of the board, his practical knowledge of the work then progressing, being of great value.

In January, 1877, he was succeeded by the present able executive, Governor Charles M. Croswell, under whose administration the work has progressed to completion.

The commission has been fortunate in the selection and employment of assistants, as well as in awarding contracts.

The secretary, Mr. Allen L. Bours, has discharged the duties from the organization of the board, with rare ability and faithfulness. The records, books, and files furnish a full and complete history and showing of the transactions and expenditures of the board, and are regarded as a model of completeness and accuracy.

Mr. Oliver Marble was appointed assistant superintendent, to take effect February 1st, 1873, and, in the absence of Mr.

Myers (architect and superintendent), was in charge of the work until August 31st, 1878, the condition of the work at that time no longer requiring his services; his intelligence and former experience rendering him capable and efficient for that position.

The firm of N. Osburn & Co., of Rochester, N. Y., the contractors for the erection and completion of the building, was well constituted to organize and carry steadily forward to completion, a work of the character and magnitude of this building, for in the firm was represented mechanical skill and intelligence of a high order. They have executed their contract faithfully and satisfactorily in workmanship and material.

Mr. Samuel J. Creswell of Philadelphia, as sub-contractor, furnished all the cast-iron work for the building. His work is of a most superior character, and in its production he has zealously carried out the desires of the board.

The Walworth Manufacturing Co. of Boston was awarded the contract for steam heating and ventilation. The work was properly and intelligently performed, and has thus far accomplished all that was anticipated.

The electric lighting and annunciator work was done by the Western Electric Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, and, as far as completed, is quite perfect and successful in its operation.

The several contracts for fitting up the Library, Legislative Halls, Supreme Court and Justices' Rooms, Military Department, etc., have all been completed in conformity with drawings and specifications.

The grading, draining, laying out, and beautifying the grounds have been done under the superintendence of Mr. Adam Oliver, a landscape gardener of Kalamazoo. He has discharged his duties intelligently and acceptably.

The almost entire freedom from accidents resulting either in loss of life or property, is a cause for great thankfulness. Notwithstanding the building was in course of construction for more than six years, and during this period hundreds of men employed, no accident occurred causing loss of life or limb, nor any resulting in loss or sacrifice of property worthy of notice.

The board has, since its organization, held one hundred and forty-seven meetings, of which one hundred and three were regular, and forty-four were special, and occupying, in all, two hundred and fifty-eight days. The Commissioners have never failed to have a quorum in attendance at its regular monthly meetings, and in no case since the commencement of the work has any contractor or other persons having claims against the State on account of the construction of the Capitol, been obliged to wait a single day on account of the neglect or failure of the Board to meet and act upon their claims. In this it will be observed that uninterrupted health has been vouchsafed to each member of the Board.

During all these years of watching and waiting, of toil and anxiety, the Commission has been greatly cheered, encouraged, and gratified by the many evidences and expressions of confidence and approbation that have come to them from time to time, from all portions of the State; but have found their greatest gratification and highest reward in the consciousness that they have been faithful to their trust, and in having given, to the discharge of every duty devolving upon them, their earnest and persistent efforts and best thoughts.

*To the Honorable the Governor of the State of Michigan :*

The Board of State Building Commissioners were appointed

and commissioned to erect and complete a building suitable for the State Capitol.

Having accomplished the task assigned to them, they have the honor to present this edifice, with all its appointments, complete from foundation to pinnacle of dome; trusting it will be found fitting, convenient, and secure for the proper administration of the government of this great and growing State.

E. O. GROSVENOR,

JAS. SHEARER,

ALEX. CHAPOTON,

*State Building Commissioners.*

ALLEN L. BOURS, *Secretary.*

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE CAPITOL BY THE GOVERNOR.

Governor Charles M. Croswell responded as follows:

In behalf of the State, it gives me great pleasure to accept this Capitol building. It has been constructed in a substantial manner, affords ample accommodations for all departments of the government; comports with the character of the Commonwealth, and is worthy to stand as an evidence of the taste, spirit, and enterprise of this people.

To you, gentlemen of the Building Commission, has been entrusted the charge of this work from its inception to its completion. No change has taken place in your membership, and you all are here to-day to witness the full realization of your plans and your labors.

Although this building has been erected during a period when public confidence has been repeatedly shaken by efforts in many instances on the part of those in charge of public works to make them wrongfully contribute to personal gain, no aspersion of the kind has been charged here. All your



expenditures have been gauged by the limits of your appropriations. You have been scrupulous in the discharge of the duties confided to you, and careful of the interests of the State. I believe I but express the general sentiment when I say that the structure reflects credit upon yourselves, upon the architect, the builders, and others associated with you in the enterprise, and that you are justly entitled to public thanks.

We now enter upon the formal occupation of this edifice. The way for its construction was prepared by those who, preceding us, incurred the privations of the pioneer, and laid here the foundations of a government designed to promote the general welfare. Their work is confided to us. If we aim to maintain liberty, advance morality, encourage labor, and banish ignorance, we will have been true to the trust. Our places are soon to be filled by others. No man, even with prophetic vision, can compass the future of Michigan. As population flows to her, and commerce increases her wealth, let us hope that from these walls may emanate the results of wise statesmanship, impartial justice, and patriotic devotion to country.

Governor Croswell then introduced the Rev. Theodore P. Prudden, who pronounced the

#### BENEDICTION.

May the abundant blessing of our generous Father rest upon our State, its rulers, its families, upon this house and all that is done therein, and upon us all, both now and forever. Amen.

## The New Capitol.

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The building is located on the centre of Block No. 249, or Capitol Square, the main front facing the east. The block has a frontage on Capitol avenue of 660 feet from north to south, and a depth from east to west of  $742\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and contains an area of eleven and a quarter acres.

### DIMENSIONS, ETC.

The building (exclusive of the porticoes), is 345 feet 2 inches in length, and 191 feet 5 inches in depth at centre. Including the porticoes and steps, the length is 420 feet 2 inches, and greatest depth, 273 feet 11 inches. The extreme height is 267 feet.

The height of stories is as follows: Basement, 11 feet; 1st, 2d, and 3d stories, each 20 feet; 4th story, 16 feet. The east corridor of first floor is 29 feet wide, the west 19 feet, and north and south each 18 feet. The clear diameter of the rotunda is  $44\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the height from floor to diaphragm 150 feet.

The State Library is 100 feet long, width at centre 45 feet, three stories in height, containing five galleries or tiers of cases. Height from main floor to ceiling 59 feet, with shelf capacity for over 63,000 volumes, which can easily be increased to 100,000 by furnishing cases upon the upper floor.

The Legislative Halls are each 70 feet in width from east to west; the Representative Hall being 75 feet, and the Senate Chamber 57 feet from north to south. The ceiling of each is  $41\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height.

The building contains, besides corridors, passages, closets, and wash and cloak rooms, one hundred and thirty-nine rooms, as follows: Basement, 38; first and second stories each 33; third story, 28, and fourth story 7, besides two boiler rooms and the necessary room for storage of fuel, situated under the north and south porticoes, entirely outside of the building.

There are two grand stairways situated on either side of the rotunda and extending from the basement to the fourth story. There are also half flights leading from the landings of these to the second, third and fourth floors. There are also two stairways leading from the basement to the third floor, in the rear of the Legislative Halls, a stairway from the fourth floor to the highest gallery in the dome, and from that point to the lantern. There are also two circular stairways from the lower to the upper floor of the Library, with landings at each gallery, and two private stairways connecting offices on the first floor with rooms in the basement.

The distance from Capitol avenue to foot of steps at east portico is 225 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; from west steps to Walnut street, 243 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and from the north and south steps to street, 119 feet 10 inches.

The Capitol with the porticoes covers one and one-sixth acres. The girth of the building is 1,520 feet.

#### MATERIALS.

The concrete upon which all the walls are laid, is composed

of limestone from Bellevue, Eaton county, Michigan, broken with a "Blake crusher" to egg size, and mixed in proper proportion with Louisville cement, coarse sand and water. The footing stones are of Lamont, Illinois, limestone. The superstructure is of Amherst, Ohio, sandstone; the first base course, outside steps and landings, and steps to boiler rooms, of Joliet, Illinois, limestone, the corner-stone of Massachusetts granite; and the floors of vaults and flagging on grounds of Euclid, Ohio, freestone. The brick for interior walls and backing of exterior walls, floor arches, etc., of which fifteen millions were used in the building, were manufactured in Lansing. The corridors of first, second and third stories are tiled with Vermont marble. All the beams, girders, interior columns, roof trusses and stairways are of iron, the covering of dome, soffits under landings of grand stairways, and ceilings of Legislative Halls are of galvanized iron; the roof is covered with very superior tin, manufactured expressly for it in Wales. The windows of the three principal stories and basement are glazed with the best quality of English plate glass; the panels in the ceilings of the House and Senate are of the same quality of glass, embossed; the skylights over Legislative Halls are of American hammered glass,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick.

#### GAS LIGHTING.

The building is lighted by gas supplied by the Lansing Gas Light Co. There are 271 chandeliers and pendants, besides a large number of standards and brackets, with a total of 1,702 burners within the building, besides 36 burners in the lamps to light the porticoes and entrances to the grounds. 371 of the burners are lighted by electricity, distributed as follows: In ceiling of Representative Hall, 150; in ceiling of Senate

Chamber, 100; in State Library 75, and in the dome and lantern 46.

#### CONTRACTORS.

The following list comprises most of the principal contractors and sub-contractors:

Erection and completion of entire building—N. Osburn & Co., Rochester, N. Y., composed of the following named gentlemen: Nehemiah Osburn, Emery W. Osburn, Charles C. Moody, James Appleyard, and Richard Glaister.

Steam heating and ventilation—Walworth Manufacturing Co., Boston, Mass.

Electric lighting and annunciator work—The Western Electric Manufacturing Co., Chicago.

Sandstone—The Amherst Stone Co., John T. Wilson, Vice Pres., Cleveland, Ohio.

Cast iron work; also lamp posts and lanterns—Samuel J. Creswell, Philadelphia.

Galvanized iron work—John Siddons, Rochester, N. Y.

Plumbing and gas-fitting—Waite & Williams, Toledo, O.

Plate glass—Edwin A. Boyd, New York.

Ornamental glass work—Geo. A. Misch & Bro., Chicago.

Painting and Graining—Deans, Brow & Godfrey, Detroit, Mich.

Vault doors, and State Treasurer's safe—Detroit Safe Co., Detroit, Mich.

Plastering and stucco work—Roberts & Green, Detroit, Mich.

Brick—George B. Hall, Lansing.

Door and window frames, sash, doors, and interior wood finish—Alfred Wise, Lansing.

Designs for statuary—L. T. Ives, Detroit, and Herman Wehner, Lansing.

Modeling statuary—Herman Wehner, Lansing.

Galleries, book-cases, desks in State library, legislative desks, fitting up military apartments and legislative post-office, sofas, lounges, and other furniture—Kappes & Eggers, Chicago.

Flag Walks—Wm. P. Appleyard, Lansing.

Steam and water pipes, and machinery for water supply—James Appleyard, Lansing.

Railing around grounds—P. C. Ayres & Son, Lansing.

Plank sidewalks—William Clark, Lansing.

Revolving chairs—Barber, Craine & Co., Detroit.

Fitting up departments of Auditor General, State Treasurer, and Secretary of State, and other furniture—Francis R. Wolfinger, Chicago.

Rostrums in Supreme Court room and Legislative Halls, and other furniture—Feige Brothers, East Saginaw, Mich.

Elevator—W. E. Hale & Co., Chicago.

Furniture and upholstery for Governor's rooms—Caroline Weber, Detroit.

Settees in galleries, polygon desks, and other furniture—A. H. Andrews & Co., Chicago.

Furniture—Haynes, Spencer & Co., Richmond, Ind.

Revolving book-cases—George S. Tompkins, Detroit.

Columns in Legislative Halls, and entrance doors—Lapp & Doemling, Detroit, Mich.

Gas fixtures—Mitchell, Vance & Co., New York.

Carpets and linoleum—Abbot & Ketchum, Detroit, Mich.

Water coolers—Davis & Larned, Lansing, Mich.

Tin file-boxes, waste paper baskets, and desk furniture—E.  
B. Smith & Co., Detroit, Mich.

Show cases—Daman & Mann, Lansing, Mich.

Electric clocks—E. Howard & Co., Boston.

## Chronological Table

### OF IMPORTANT EVENTS RELATING TO THE BUILDING OF THE CAPITOL.



1871.

- Jan. 4.—The erection of a new Capitol recommended by Governor H. P. Baldwin in his biennial message to the Legislature.
- Feb. 14.—Bill introduced into the Senate “To provide for the erection of a new State Capitol.”
- Feb. 28.—Bill passed by the Senate.
- March 22.—Bill amended and passed by the House.
- March 23.—Amendments concurred in by the Senate.
- March 31.—Bill approved by the Governor.
- April 11.—E. O. Grosvenor, James Shearer, and Alexander Chapoton appointed Building Commissioners, and confirmed by the Legislature in joint convention.
- April 12.—Commissioners met in Lansing and qualified.
- May 8.—E. O. Grosvenor elected Vice President of the Board.
- May 16.—Allen L. Bours appointed Secretary of the Board.
- June 6.—Advertisements issued soliciting designs for a new Capitol.
- Dec. 28.—Twenty designs for Capitol submitted.



1872.

- Jan. 24.—Design for Capitol adopted.
- March 29.—E. E. Myers appointed Architect and Superintendent.
- May 21.—Advertisements issued soliciting proposals for erection of building.
- July 8.—Proposals received from contractors for erection of building.
- July 15.—Contract for the erection of the building awarded to N. Osburn & Co., of Rochester, N. Y.
- Aug. 27.—First estimate for labor and material allowed to contractors, net amount \$3,118 23.

1873.

- Feb. 1.—O. Marble employed as assistant superintendent.
- April 24.—Joint Resolution providing for laying corner stone approved by Gov. John J. Bagley.
- June 10.—First meeting of corner-stone committee, consisting of Hon. John J. Bagley, Governor; Hons. E. O. Grosvenor, James Shearer, and Alex. Chapoton, State Building Commissioners, and Hons. David Anderson, A. S. Gaylord, E. I. Garfield, John Hibbard, John P. Hoyt, L. H. Randall, O. L. Spaulding, W. H. Stone, John S. Tooker, and W. H. Withington.
- Oct. 2.—Corner stone laid.

1875.

- Feb. 16.—Act approved appropriating \$70,000 for steam heating and ventilation, also \$30,000 for changes in roof, steps to porticoes, etc.

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April 23.—Act approved appropriating \$65,000 for constructing main cornice and balustrade of stone instead of galvanized iron.

Nov. 23.—Contract for steam heating and ventilation awarded to the Walworth Manufacturing Co., of Boston.

1876.

June 28.—Contract for electrician work awarded to Western Electric Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, Ill.

1877.

May 16.—Act approved appropriating \$40,000 for improvement of grounds and furnishing Legislative Halls, Library, etc.

May 21.—Act approved appropriating \$75,000 for furnishing the new Capitol.

1878.

Sept. 26.—Building accepted, and final settlement with N. Osburn & Co., contractors.

1879.

Jan. 1.—Capitol dedicated and first occupied by the 30th Legislature.

